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Visit our Website at:
www.etfo-torots.org and
sign up for our Occa-
sional Teacher Confer-
ence on TEL

For timely updates, please send us your e-mail address. Please advise the Union Local of changes to your Address, Phone Number or E-mail Address—or if you leave occasional teaching.

THE DISPATCH

Board Leaves Our Negotiations On Back Burner

It's the end of the school year and we had hoped to bring you good news about a new contract to ratify. Instead we have to report that there has been no progress in occasional teacher negotiations. We have only been to the bargaining table twice this round. Elementary and secondary contract teacher negotiations have absorbed all of the Board's time. Unfortunately, occasional teacher negotiations always fall in behind those of the contract teachers. It is time for the Board to show some respect for occasional teachers and give us the opportunity to negotiate a renewal of our contract which expired almost a year ago!

We are, however, very pleased with the collective bargaining gains made by our ETT colleagues. Their increased preparation time and reduced supervision time over the next four years will have a significant impact on our working conditions. **It is now imperative that we have iron-clad language in our collective agreement that guarantees us the timetable of the teacher being replaced. We will go to any length to make this happen – even if it means a strike vote this Fall.**

ETT's salary increases over the next four years will also impact on our long-term occasional teachers – with raises totaling over 10% between September, 2004 and February, 2008. However, none of these raises will be paid until our Local has signed its own collective agreement – and we can't do that if we can't get to the bargaining table!

Employment Insurance

On June 16th, our Local held an information meeting for members interested in filing for Employment Insurance (EI) this summer. The Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) representative in attendance informed us that, again this year, the minimum number of hours of work required is 630 hours in the past 52 weeks (or 90 full days of work). If you are a new entrant to the work force, the requirement is 910 hours (or 130 full days of work). In order to maintain a claim, you must be actively looking for work in an area other than teaching.

We were directed to file our claims on line at www.canada.gc.ca. A reference code has been assigned for persons employed by the TDSB. That reference code is: **3015012005SR3268** and should be entered in the appropriate place on your application. Applications for EI should be made "no later than 14 days after the last day worked or the last day paid." The reference code is valid until July 29, 2005. The TDSB will be sending out Records of Employment during the week of July 11th. However, you do not need to wait until you receive your ROE before filing for EI. This year HRSDC has told us that Records of Employment with serial numbers starting with W or S do NOT need to be delivered to HRSDC.

If you have questions or need further information, please call HRSDC at 1-800-206-7218.

Reminders

- ◆ July 11—Records of Employment (ROEs) will be mailed out to all occasional teachers by the TDSB
- ◆ August 15—Renewal Notices to be returned to TDSB along with proof of College of Teachers membership
- ◆ Offence Declaration must be filed on line by September 16th
- ◆ September 6, 2005—Beginning of School Year 2005/2006
- ◆ September 6—Local Office closed for all-day Executive Meeting.
- ◆ September 22—"It Can Happen To You" at Fairmeadow 4:30. See enclosed flyer for details.

Calling All Members Interested in Occupational Health & Safety

Our Local is encouraging more of our members to become involved in the Local's Health & Safety Committee. We are allocated four paid representatives, one on each of the Board's regional Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committees. Several of our members have received training at Board expense to do site inspections, ensuring that our schools are safe places to work. If you are interested in becoming trained as a health & safety representative and working on behalf of our Local, please e-mail Marion Mutton at marionmutton@ica.net. We are Vulnerable. Protect Yourself

"It Can Happen to You" - Back Again Because It's Crucial—September 22, 2005

We are Vulnerable. Protect Yourself

It is an unfortunate reality that as "occasional" teachers, we are vulnerable to allegations by students and staff. ETFO has put together a wonderful workshop and video presentation entitled "It Can Happen To You". If you have not attended one of these presentations in the past, please mark September 22nd on your calendar. See the enclosed flyer and learn how to teach defensively!

Are You Being Paid At Your Correct Salary Grid Rate When on LTOs?

We are always surprised to find that some of our members have not applied for a Qualifications Evaluation Council of Ontario (QECO) rating statement that evaluates our educational & professional qualifications. Without a QECO rating, our members on LTOs are paid at the default grid category A1. You could be missing out on thousands of dollars per year in income if you don't have a QECO rating. Summer is a perfect time to attend to this important matter. See the back of our calendar for the website and phone number for QECO.

Excellent School Awards—The Results Are In!

For the fourth consecutive year, we conducted a survey of all of our members, asking for them to rate the schools where they teach. We are pleased to enclose the names of the eight winners of the 2004-2005 Excellent School Awards and the names of the 52 schools that merited Honourable Mention. All schools have been advised of the results and plaques and Excellent Schools mugs have been delivered to the eight Excellent School Award Winners.

Our survey is now receiving the intended results. Schools are actually calling our Local to see how they rated and how they can improve in the eyes of occasional teachers. Please be sure to participate in next year's survey. It is only through your participation that the results are meaningful and have impact.

Message from your President:

Dear Colleagues,
In the past seven years since we formed the ETFO-Toronto Occasional Teachers Local, we have developed a strong union Local with many accomplishments behind us. It has been an honour to have been your president throughout this period. I thank you for your continued support and know that we will continue to grow under the strong leadership of Marion Mutton and incoming First Vice-President Donna Chapman.

I hope your summer is full of sunshine, relaxation and good health.

Elaine Salisbury

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